

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 00733 041834Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-09 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9773

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DAKAR 0733

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EMIN, SG

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT IRON ORE AND PHOSPHATE BULK HANDLING PORT

REF: STATE 021028

COMMERCE FOR MEPD

1. EMBASSY DAKAR HAS OBTAINED FOLLOWING DETAILS ON PORT PROJECT AFTER NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH GOS OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS FIGURES WHO UNAWARE OF PROJECT. PROPOSALS WERE DUE FEB. 20 FOR IRON-PHOSPHATE PORT BUT DATE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY WHILE PROJECT IS REDEFINED. AMERICAN FIRM ARTHUR D. LITTLE DOING GENERAL ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PHOSPHATE-PETROLEUM PROJECT AND MINERAL PORT DESIGN PROPOSALS WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL RESULTS OF LITTLE STUDY ESTABLISH PARAMETERS FOR MINERAL COMPLEX.

2. GOS HAD BEEN WORKING ON MINERAL PROJECT BASED ON EXPLOITATION OF LOCAL PHOSPHATE AND IRON ORE DEPOSITS AND CALLED FOR PROPOSALS FOR PORT STUDY TO BE SUBMITTED WITH FEBRUARY 28 DEADLINE. PROJECT DIRECTOR IS IBRAHIMA DEM, TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, SENEGALESE AND IRANIAN GOVERNMENTS MOVED FORWARD ON PETROLEUM-PHOSPHATE-PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT CAYAR. PROJECT DIRECTOR IS ABDOULAYE DIAW,
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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF SOSERAP AND ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. ARTHUR D. LITTLE HIRED TO DO GENERAL FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THIS PROJECT. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH DIAW WHO SUPPLIED INFORMATION FOR THIS REPORT. HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH DEM BUT CONTINUING EFFORTS IN ORDER CONFIRM DIAW'S REPORT.

4. FOLLOWING BUREAUCRATIC CONFUSION IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED THAT PORT DESIGN WILL AWAIT RESULTS OF ADL STUDY DUE END OF APRIL. FOLLOWING THAT DATE INTERESTED FIRMS WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PORT DESIGN BASED ON RESULTS OF ADL PHOSPHATE-PETROLEUM-PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX WITH POSSIBILITY OF ADDING IRON ORE HANDLING AT LATER DATE. IRON ORE DEPOSITS IN SENEGAL ARE LOCATED IN UNDEVELOPED EASTERN REGION AND EXPLOITATION WOULD BE LONG TERM PROJECT INVOLVING GREAT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS. DIAW HOPES THAT REFINERY/PHOSPHATE COMPLEX WILL BE OPERATING WITHIN 3-4 YEARS.

5. SUGGEST SOROS ASSOCIATES CONTACT AD LITTLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROJECT. DIAW SUGGESTED SOROS WRITE IN FRENCH TO BOTH HE AND DEM EXPRESSING INTEREST IN PROJECT AND REQUESTING COMPLETE INFORMATION ON PROJECT. ADDRESSES ARE:

MR. IBRAHIMA DEM
CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE
PRIMATURE
BUILDING ADMINISTRATIF
DAKAR, SENEGAL

MR. ABDOULAYE DIAW
DIRECTEUR TECHNIQUE DE LA SOSERAP
39, RUE MOHAMED VX VICTOR HUGO
DAKAR, SENEGAL

6. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE INFORMATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES SOROS ASSOCIATES WILL HAVE REASONABLE CHANCE TO BID ON PROJECT BUT BELIEVE VISIT TO DAKAR BY REPRESENTATIVE MAY BE PREMATURE PENDING RESULTS OF ADL STUDY.
AGGREY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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